

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 03109 011849Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05

ACDA-05 BIB-01 /083 W

----- 124650

R 011820Z MAY 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2542

INFO ALL CSCE CAPS 284

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USNMR SHAPE

USLO SACLANT NORFOLK VA

USCINCLANT

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 3109

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, PFOR, XG, PARM

SUBJ: CSCE: CBMS; SOVIET POSITION ON THRESHOLD
FOR NOTIFYING MANEUVERS

1. AT CONCLUSION OF SOVIET LUNCHEON FOR DELEGATION
CHIEFS AND BASKET I REPS FROM FRANCE, UK AND US FOR
DISCUSSION OF QRRS (SEPTTEL), KOVALEV ASKED TO SPEAK
PRIVATELY WITH THREE HEADS OF DELEGATION. AT THIS
MEETING HE REVEALED VERY CONFIDENTIALLY THAT THE
SOVIET DELEGATION HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED TO SHIFT ITS
POSITION ON THE MANEUVER THRESHOLD PARAMENTER FROM
ARMY CORPS TO A NUMERICAL BASIS. KOVALEV DESCRIBED
THIS AS A BIG STEP FORWARD WHICH HE EXPECTED WOULD
BE REFLECTED IN GREATER WESTERN UNDERSTANDING OF THE
SOVIET POSITION THAT NOTIFICATION SHOULD BE ON A
VOLUNTARY BASIS.

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 03109 011849Z

2. UK AMBASSADOR HILDYARD RESPONDED THAT THIS WAS A MODEST STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION AND ASKED KOVALEV IF THE WESTERN REPRESENTATIVES COULD REVEAL THIS INFORMATION TO OTHER WESTERN AND NEUTRAL DELEGATIONS. KOVALEV AUTHORIZED HILDYARD ALONE TO DO THIS BUT ASKED HIM TO QUOTE SOVIET SOURCES RATHER THAN KOVALEV HIMSELF.

3. IN REPLY TO QUESTION POSED BY AMBASSADOR SHERER IF IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO HINT AT THE NUMBERS OF TROOPS THE SOVIETS HAD IN MIND KOVALEV STATED THAT FURTHER ELABORATION WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE AT THE PRESENT TIME.

DALE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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